National Policy on the Management of Hazardous Waste

2387. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MEINT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India has urged for a national policy on the management of hazardous and other wastes to reduce the volume of waste: and

(to) if so, the details thereof and what is the reaction of the Central Government on the proposal of the ASSOOHAM ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL MATH) : (a) and (b) During the Workshop on "Waste Management as a Means to Resource Conservation and Pollution Control" organised by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry on February 1, 1991, a number of recommendations were made for the management and reduction of hazardous and other wastes.

The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules; 1989 and the Guidelines for Management and Handling of Hazardous Wastes provide for the national regulation on hazardous wastes. Suggestions received from different sources have also been duly considered and have been taken care of in the 'Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution' issued by the Ministay in February, 1992.

Assistance received under Global Environ* ment Facility

2388. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR , BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received $ 12 million under the recently set up Global Environment Facility for the conservation of protected areas like national parks and sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details of the national I parks and sanctuaries on which the invest- ments would be made; and

(c) to what extent the national parks and sanctuaries would be protected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vehicular pollution affecting Delhi Children

2389. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the children of Delhi and New Delhi areas are seriously affected by the vehicular pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures Government propose *to* take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No conclusive studies are available to indicate that the children of Delhi and New Delhi are affected by the levels of Vehicular Pollution. However, the possible effects of vehicular pollution on human health include respiratory and bronchial diseases, giddiness, damage to the central nervous system, kidney and lungs. Children and older people are more easily affected.

The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollution include the following :—

(i) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ii) Draft notification in respect of mass emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles for the year 1995 has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel for petrol and diesel in major metro-politan cities.

(iv) Public awareness campaigns have bean launched.

Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

2390. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : WiU the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi, the National Capital and other metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras are considered to be worst polluted areas; if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

. (b) whether Government have got a plan to make Delhi a clean and pollution free city; if so, the measures taken and by when it is proposed to be achieved; and

(c) whether Government have framed a policy to make the country, particularly j the cosmopolitan towns, pollution free; if so, the details thereof *1*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATO) : (a) to (c) As per the report prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board there is a deterioration in water quality near out falls close to urban settlements owing to an increase in domestic wastes. A deterio ration in the air quality is observed in metropolitan cities because of an increase in vehicular pollution.

The steps taken by the Government to control pollution are as follows :

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. (ii) A network of ambient and water quality monitoring stations has been set up in metropolitan cities.

<iii) Metropolitan cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards within a time-frame.

(vi) Scheme for construction/augmea-tation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken under the Ganga Action Plan of the Central Government,

(vii) A scheme have been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatmentplants,

(viii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas,

(ix) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified for 1995 under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990.

(x) Public awareness campaigns on vehicular pollution have been launched.

Environmental Problems of the Konkaa Railway Project

2391. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHA-TURVEDI :
SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally re-solved the environmental problems of the Konkan Railway Project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the difficulties in this regard;

(d) whether the Committee constituted by the Ministry on the subject has submitted its report;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon; and

(f) if not, by when the report is likely to be finalised?